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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/606,254	06/26/2003	Victor George Dix		4487

7590 08/18/2005

VICTOR G. DIX
40 CHESTNUT GROVE
BENFLEET, SS7 5RX
UNITED KINGDOM

EXAMINER

BARRETT, SUZANNE LALE DINO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3676

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary

Application No.

10/606,254

Applicant(s)

DIX, VICTOR GEORGE

Examiner

Suzanne Dino Barrett

Art Unit

3676

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Suzanne Dino Barrett.

(3)_____.

(2) Mr. Dix (pro se applicant).

(4)_____.

Date of Interview: 09 August 2005.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference

c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☐ No.

If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: _____.

Identification of prior art discussed: art of record.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

* Notice of Appeal Forms attached.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.



Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The application was discussed at great length with Mr. Dix, including the prior art and procedural questions. Mr. Dix was informed that although the examiner had attempted to write him an allowable claim, upon review with other primaries in the art, it was decided that an allowable claim could not be written. Mr. Dix was told that he can pursue an appeal if he desires and that the examiner would forward him the necessary instructions as to how to file a Notice of Appeal and Appeal Brief. Those instructions are attached to this letter.

NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM THE EXAMINER TO THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES		Docket Number (Optional)					
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231" on _____ Signature _____ Typed or printed name _____		In re Application of _____ <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Application Number</td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Filed</td> </tr> </table> For _____ <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Group Art Unit</td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Examiner</td> </tr> </table>		Application Number	Filed	Group Art Unit	Examiner
Application Number	Filed						
Group Art Unit	Examiner						
<p>Applicant hereby appeals to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the last decision of the examiner.</p> <p>The fee for this Notice of Appeal is (37 CFR 1.17(b)) \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. Therefore, the fee shown above is reduced by half, and the resulting fee is: \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner has already been authorized to charge fees in this application to a Deposit Account. I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. _____. I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) (PTO/SB/22) is enclosed.</p> <p>WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.</p> <p>I am the</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> applicant/inventor.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent of record.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34(a). Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34(a) _____</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> _____ Signature _____ Typed or printed name _____ Date </div> <p>NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.</p>							
<input type="checkbox"/> *Total of _____ forms are submitted.							

prosecution is reopened, a continuation application is filed, or if the appeal is discontinued for any other reason.

If the brief is not filed within the time designated by 37 CFR 1.192, the applicant will be notified that the appeal stands dismissed.

“SPECIAL CASE”

Subject alone to diligent prosecution by the applicant, an application for patent that once has been made special and advanced out of turn by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office) for examination will continue to be special throughout its entire course of prosecution in the Office, including appeal, if any, to the Board. See MPEP § 708.02.

A petition to make an application special after the appeal has been forwarded to the Board may be addressed to the Board. However, no such petition will be granted unless the brief has been filed and applicant has made the same type of showing required by the Commissioner under 37 CFR 1.102. Therefore, diligent prosecution is essential to a favorable decision on a petition to make special.

1205 Notice of Appeal

** USE ATTACHED FORM + FEE.*

35 U.S.C. 134. Appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.

(a) **PATENT APPLICANT.** — An applicant for a patent, any of whose claims has been twice rejected, may appeal from the decision of the administrative patent judge to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, having once paid the fee for such appeal.

(b) **PATENT OWNER.** — A patent owner in any reexamination proceeding may appeal from the final rejection of any claim by the administrative patent judge to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, having once paid the fee for such appeal.

(c) **THIRD-PARTY.** — A third-party requester in an inter partes proceeding may appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the final decision of the administrative patent judge favorable to the patentability of any original or proposed amended or new claim of a patent, having once paid the fee for such appeal. The third-party requester may not appeal the decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.

35 U.S.C. 41. Patent fees; patent and trademark search systems

(a) The Director shall charge the following fees:

(6)

(A) On filing an appeal from the examiner to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, \$300.

(B) In addition, on filing a brief in support of the appeal, \$300, and on requesting an oral hearing in the appeal before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, \$260.

37 CFR 1.191. Appeal to Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.

(a) Every applicant for a patent or for reissue of a patent, and every owner of a patent under *ex parte* reexamination filed under § 1.510 for a patent that issued from an original application filed in the United States before November 29, 1999, any of whose claims has been twice or finally (§ 1.113) rejected, may appeal from the decision of the examiner to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences by filing a notice of appeal and the fee set forth in § 1.17(b) within the time period provided under §§ 1.134 and 1.136 for reply. Notwithstanding the above, for an *ex parte* reexamination proceeding filed under § 1.510 for a patent that issued from an original application filed in the United States on or after November 29, 1999, no appeal may be filed until the claims have been finally rejected (§ 1.113). Appeals to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in *inter partes* reexamination proceedings filed under § 1.913 are controlled by §§ 1.959 through 1.981. Sections 1.191 through 1.198 are not applicable to appeals in *inter partes* reexamination proceedings filed under § 1.913.

(b) The signature requirement of § 1.33 does not apply to a notice of appeal filed under this section.

(c) An appeal when taken must be taken from the rejection of all claims under rejection which the applicant or patent owner proposes to contest. Questions relating to matters not affecting the

merits of the invention may be required to be settled before an appeal can be considered.

(d) The time periods set forth in §§ 1.191 and 1.192 are subject to the provisions of § 1.136 for patent applications and § 1.550(c) for reexamination proceedings. The time periods set forth in §§ 1.193, 1.194, 1.196 and 1.197 are subject to the provisions of § 1.136(b) for patent applications or § 1.550(c) for reexamination proceedings. See § 1.304(a) for extensions of time for filing a notice of appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit or for commencing a civil action.

(e) Jurisdiction over the application or patent under reexamination passes to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences upon transmittal of the file, including all briefs and examiner's answers, to the Board. Prior to the entry of a decision on the appeal, the Commissioner may *sua sponte* order the application remanded to the examiner.

APPEAL BY PATENT APPLICANT

Under 37 CFR 1.191(a), an applicant for a patent dissatisfied with the primary examiner's decision in the second or final rejection of his or her claims may appeal to the Board for review of the examiner's rejection by filing a notice of appeal and the required fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(b) within the time period provided under 37 CFR 1.134 and 1.136. A notice of appeal may be filed after any of the claims has been twice rejected, regardless of whether the claim(s) has/have been finally rejected. The limitation of "twice or finally...rejected" does not have to be related to a particular application. For example, if any claim was rejected in a parent application, and the claim is again rejected in a continuing application, then applicant will be entitled to file an appeal in the continuing application, even if the claim was rejected only once in the continuing application.

Although the rules no longer require that the notice of appeal identify the rejected claim(s) appealed, or be signed, applicants should continue to file notices of appeal which identify the appealed claims and are signed. The requirement was eliminated from 37 CFR 1.191 as being redundant of the requirements of 37 CFR 1.192 and to avoid the delay and expense to both applicant and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office) which is involved in treating a defective notice of appeal. It should be noted that the elimination of the requirement to sign a notice of appeal does not affect the requirements for other papers (such as an amendment under 37 CFR 1.116) submitted with the notice, or for other actions contained within the notice, e.g., an authorization to charge fees to a deposit account or to a credit card. See MPEP § 509. Thus, failure to sign the notice of appeal may have unintended adverse consequences; for example, if an unsigned notice of appeal contains an (unsigned) authorization to charge the appeal fee to a deposit account, the notice of appeal will be unacceptable because the appeal fee is lacking.

The notice of appeal must be filed within the period for reply set in the last Office action, which is normally 3 months for applications. See MPEP § 714.13. Failure to remove all grounds of rejection and otherwise place an application in condition for allowance or to file an appeal after final rejection will result in the application becoming abandoned, even if one or more claims have been allowed, except where claims suggested for interference have been copied. The notice of appeal and appropriate fee may be filed up to 6 months from the date of the final rejection, so long as an appropriate petition and fee for an extension of time is filed either prior to or with the notice of appeal.

APPEAL BY PATENT OWNER

37 CFR 1.191 provides for appeal to the Board by the patent owner from any decision in an *ex parte* reexamination proceeding adverse to patentability, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 306 and 35 U.S.C. 134. See also MPEP § 2273.

In an *ex parte* reexamination of a patent that issued from an original application filed before November 29, 1999, the patent owner may appeal to the Board either (A) after final rejection of the claims, or (B) after the second rejection of the claims. This is based on the version of 35 U.S.C. 134 in existence prior to the amendment of the reexamination statute on November 29, 1999 by Public Law 106-113.

In an *ex parte* reexamination of a patent that issued from an original application filed on or after November 29, 1999, the patent owner may appeal to the Board only after the final rejection of one or more claims in the particular reexamination proceeding for which appeal is sought. See the current version of 35 U.S.C. 134.

The fee for filing the notice of appeal by a patent owner is set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(b), and the time period to pay the fee is determined as provided in 37 CFR 1.134 and 37 CFR 1.136.

Failure to file an appeal in an *ex parte* reexamination proceeding will result in issuance of the reexamination certificate under 37 CFR 1.570.

Appeals to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in *inter partes* reexamination proceedings filed under 35 U.S.C. 311 are governed by 37 CFR 1.959 through 1.981. 37 CFR 1.191 through 1.198 are not applicable to appeals in *inter partes* reexamination proceedings.

The use of a separate letter containing the notice of appeal is strongly recommended. Form PTO/SB/31 may be used for filing a notice of appeal.

PTO/SB/31 (02-01)
Approved for use through 10/31/2007. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no duplicate view required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM THE EXAMINER TO THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES		Docket Number (Optional)	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231" on _____ Signature _____ Typed or printed name _____		In re Application of _____ Application Number _____ Filed _____ For _____ Group Art Unit _____ Examiner _____	
Applicant hereby appeals to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the last decision of the examiner. The fee for this Notice of Appeal is (37 CFR 1.17(b)) \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. Therefore, the fee shown above is reduced by half, and the resulting fee is: \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached. <input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner has already been authorized to charge fees in this application to a Deposit Account. I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet. <input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. _____ I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet. <input type="checkbox"/> A petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) (PTO/SB/22) is enclosed. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038. I am the <input type="checkbox"/> applicant/inventor. <input type="checkbox"/> assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/98) <input type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent of record. <input type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34(a). Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34(a) _____ <div style="text-align: right; margin-right: 100px;"> Signature _____ Typed or printed name _____ Date _____ </div> <p style="font-size: small;">NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.</p>			

U *Total of _____ forms are submitted.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

MATTERS HANDLED CONCURRENTLY WITH APPEAL

The Office does not acknowledge receipt of a notice of appeal by separate letter. However, if a self-addressed postcard is included with the notice of appeal, it will be date stamped and mailed.

Form paragraphs 12.01-12.04 may be used to indicate defects in a notice of appeal

¶ 12.01 Notice of Appeal Unacceptable - Fee Unpaid

The notice of appeal filed on [1] is not acceptable because the appeal fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(b) was not filed, or was not timely filed.

Applicant may obtain an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) to file the appropriate appeal fee. The date on which the notice of appeal, the appeal fee, the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a), and the petition fee are filed will be the date of the reply and also the date for determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply later than the maximum SIX MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) for more than FIVE MONTHS beyond the date of reply set in an Office action.

¶ 12.02 Notice of Appeal Unacceptable - No 2nd Rejection

The notice of appeal filed on [1] is not acceptable under 37 CFR 1.191(a) because [2]

Examiner Note

In bracket 2, insert the following wording, as appropriate:

--there has been no second or final rejection in this patent application--;

--there has been no second or final rejection in this *ex parte* reexamination proceeding on a patent that issued from an original application filed in the United States before November 29, 1999--; or

--there has been no final rejection (37 CFR 1.113) of the claims in this *ex parte* reexamination proceeding on a patent that issued from an original application filed in the United States on or after November 29, 1999--.

¶ 12.03 Notice of Appeal Unacceptable - Not Timely Filed

The notice of appeal filed on [1] is not acceptable because it was filed after the expiration of the period set in the prior Office action. This application will become abandoned unless applicant obtains an extension under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the notice of appeal, the appeal fee, the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a), and the petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) are filed will be the date of the reply and also the date for determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply later than the maximum SIX MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) for more than FIVE MONTHS beyond the date of reply set in an Office action.

¶ 12.04 Notice of Appeal Unacceptable - Claims Allowed

The notice of appeal filed on [1] is not acceptable because a notice of allowability was mailed by the Office on [2].

1206 Appeal Brief

37 CFR 1.192. Appellant's brief.

(a) Appellant must, within two months from the date of the notice of appeal under § 1.191 or within the time allowed for reply to the action from which the appeal was taken, if such time is later, file a brief in triplicate. The brief must be accompanied by the fee set forth in § 1.17(c) and must set

forth the authorities and arguments on which appellant will rely to maintain the appeal. Any arguments or authorities not included in the brief will be refused consideration by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, unless good cause is shown.

(b) On failure to file the brief, accompanied by the requisite fee, within the time allowed, the appeal shall stand dismissed.

(c) The brief shall contain the following items under appropriate headings and in the order indicated below unless the brief is filed by an applicant who is not represented by a registered practitioner:

(1) *Real party in interest.* A statement identifying the real party in interest, if the party named in the caption of the brief is not the real party in interest.

(2) *Related appeals and interferences.* A statement identifying by number and filing date all other appeals or interferences known to appellant, the appellant's legal representative, or assignee which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) *Status of claims.* A statement of the status of all the claims, pending or cancelled, and identifying the claims appealed.

(4) *Status of amendments.* A statement of the status of any amendment filed subsequent to final rejection.

(5) *Summary of invention.* A concise explanation of the invention defined in the claims involved in the appeal, which shall refer to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawing, if any, by reference characters.

(6) *Issues.* A concise statement of the issues presented for review.

(7) *Grouping of claims.* For each ground of rejection which appellant contests and which applies to a group of two or more claims, the Board shall select a single claim from the group and shall decide the appeal as to the ground of rejection on the basis of that claim alone unless a statement is included that the claims of the group do not stand or fall together and, in the argument under paragraph (c)(8) of this section, appellant explains why the claims of the group are believed to be separately patentable. Merely pointing out differences in what the claims cover is not an argument as to why the claims are separately patentable.

(8) *Argument.* The contentions of appellant with respect to each of the issues presented for review in paragraph (c)(6) of this section, and the basis therefor, with citations of the authorities, statutes, and parts of the record relied on. Each issue should be treated under a separate heading.

(i) For each rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, the argument shall specify the errors in the rejection and how the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 is complied with, including, as appropriate, how the specification and drawings, if any,

(A) Describe the subject matter defined by each of the rejected claims,

(B) Enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the subject matter defined by each of the rejected claims, and

(C) Set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his or her invention.

(ii) For each rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, the argument shall specify the errors in the rejection and how the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

(iii) For each rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102, the argument shall specify the errors in the rejection and why the rejected claims are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102, including any specific limitations in the rejected claims which are not described in the prior art relied upon in the rejection.

(iv) For each rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103, the argument shall specify the errors in the rejection and, if appropriate, the specific limitations in the rejected claims which are not described in the prior art relied on in the rejection, and shall explain how such limitations render the claimed subject matter unobvious over the prior art. If the rejection is based upon a combination of references, the argument shall explain why the references, taken as a whole, do not suggest the claimed subject matter, and shall include, as may be appropriate, an explanation of why features disclosed in one reference may not properly be combined with features disclosed in another reference. A general argument that all the limitations are not described in a single reference does not satisfy the requirements of this paragraph.

(v) For any rejection other than those referred to in paragraphs (c)(8)(i) to (iv) of this section, the argument shall specify the errors in the rejection and the specific limitations in the rejected claims, if appropriate, or other reasons, which cause the rejection to be in error.

(9) *Appendix.* An appendix containing a copy of the claims involved in the appeal.

(d) If a brief is filed which does not comply with all the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section, appellant will be notified of the reasons for non-compliance and provided with a period of one month within which to file an amended brief. If appellant does not file an amended brief during the one-month period, or files an amended brief which does not overcome all the reasons for non-compliance stated in the notification, the appeal will stand dismissed.

Where the brief is not filed, but within the period allowed for filing the brief an amendment is presented which places the application in condition for allowance, the

Also, an appendix entitled:

— EVIDENCE APPENDIX

and an appendix entitled:

— RELATED ~~PROCEEDINGS~~ PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

to which you can simply state "NONE." if you have no evidence or related proceedings.

amendment may be entered since the application retains its pending status during said period. Amendments should not be included in the appeal brief. Amendments should be filed as separate papers. See MPEP § 1207, § 1215.01, and § 1215.02.

TIME FOR FILING APPEAL BRIEF

37 CFR 1.192(a) provides 2 months from the date of the notice of appeal for the appellant to file an appeal brief. In an *ex parte* reexamination proceeding, the time period can be extended only under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.550(c). See also MPEP § 2274.

The usual period of time in which appellant must file his or her brief is 2 months from the date of appeal. The Office date of receipt of the notice of appeal (and not the date indicated on any Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8) is the date from which this 2 month time period is measured. See MPEP § 512. However, 37 CFR 1.192(a) alternatively permits the brief to be filed “within the time allowed for reply to the action from which the appeal was taken, if such time is later.” These time periods may be extended under 37 CFR 1.136(a), and if 37 CFR 1.136(a) is not available, under 37 CFR 1.136(b) for extraordinary circumstances.

In the event that the appellant finds that he or she is unable to file a brief within the time period allotted by the rules, he or she may file a petition, with fee, to the Technology Center (TC), requesting additional time under 37 CFR 1.136(a). Additional time in excess of 5 months will not be granted unless extraordinary circumstances are involved under 37 CFR 1.136(b). The time extended is added to the calendar day of the original period, as opposed to being added to the day it would have been due when said last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday.

If after an appeal has been filed, but prior to the date for submitting a brief, an interference is declared, appellant’s brief need not be filed while the interference is pending, unless the administrative patent judge has consented to prosecution of the application concurrently with the interference. See MPEP § 2315. Absent such concurrent prosecution, the examiner may, after the interference has terminated and the files have been returned to him or her, (A) set a 2-month period for filing the brief, or (B) withdraw the final rejection of the appealed claims in order to enter an additional rejection on a ground arising out of the interference. See, for example, MPEP § 2363.03. Also, if the appellant was the losing party in the interference, claims which were designated as corresponding to the lost count or counts will stand finally disposed of under 37 CFR 1.663.

When an application is revived after abandonment for failure on the part of the appellant to take appropriate action after final rejection, and the petition to revive was accompanied by a notice of appeal, appellant has 2 months, from the mailing date of the Commissioner’s affirmative decision on the petition, in which to file the appeal brief. The time period for filing the appeal brief may be extended under 37 CFR 1.136.

With the exception of a declaration of an interference or suggestion of claims for an interference and timely copying of claims for an interference, the appeal ordinarily will be dismissed if the brief is not filed within the period provided by 37 CFR 1.192(a) or within such additional time as may be properly extended.

A brief must be filed to preserve appellant’s right to the appealed claims, notwithstanding circumstances such as:

- (A) the possibility or imminence of an interference involving the subject application, but not resulting in withdrawal of the final rejection prior to the brief’s due date;
- (B) the filing of a petition to invoke the supervisory authority of the Commissioner under 37 CFR 1.181;

(C) the filing of an amendment, even if it is one which the examiner previously has indicated may place one or more claims in condition for allowance, unless the examiner, in acting on the amendment, disposes of all issues on appeal;

(D) the receipt of a letter from the examiner stating that prosecution is suspended, without the examiner withdrawing the final rejection from which appeal has been taken or suggesting claims for an interference, and without an administrative patent judge declaring an interference with the subject application.

Although failure to file the brief within the permissible time will result in dismissal of the appeal, if any claims stand allowed, the application does not become abandoned by the dismissal, but is returned to the examiner for action on the allowed claims. See MPEP § 1215.04. If there are no allowed claims, the application is abandoned as of the date the brief was due. Claims which have been objected to as dependent from a rejected claim do not stand allowed. In a reexamination proceeding failure to file the brief will result in the issuance of the certificate under 37 CFR 1.570.

If the time for filing a brief has passed and the application has consequently become abandoned, the applicant may petition to revive the application, as in other cases of abandonment, and to reinstate the appeal; if the appeal is dismissed, but the application is not abandoned, the petition would be to reinstate the claims and the appeal, but a showing equivalent to that in a petition to revive under 37 CFR 1.137 is required. In either event, a proper brief must be filed before the petition will be considered on its merits.

Where the dismissal of the appeal is believed to be in error, filing a petition, pointing out the error, may be sufficient.

A fee under 37 CFR 1.17(c) is required when the brief is filed. 37 CFR 1.192(a) requires the submission of three copies of the appeal brief.

APPEAL BRIEF CONTENT

The brief, as well as every other paper relating to an appeal, should indicate the number of the Technology Center (TC) to which the application or patent under reexamination is assigned and the application or reexamination control number. When the brief is received, it is forwarded to the TC where it is entered in the file, and referred to the examiner.

An appellant's brief must be responsive to every ground of rejection stated by the examiner.

Where an appeal brief fails to address any ground of rejection, appellant shall be notified by the examiner that he or she must correct the defect by filing a brief (in triplicate) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.192(c). See 37 CFR 1.192(d). Form paragraphs 12.76-12.76.06 and 12.78, or form PTOL-462, "Notification of Non-Compliance with 37 CFR 1.192(c)," may be used to notify the appellant of the deficiency. Oral argument at a hearing will not remedy such deficiency of a brief. The fact that appellant may consider a ground to be clearly improper does not justify a failure to point out to the Board the reasons for that belief.

The mere filing of paper entitled as a brief will not necessarily be considered to be in compliance with 37 CFR 1.192(c). The rule requires that the brief must set forth the authorities and arguments relied upon. Since it is essential that the Board should be provided with a brief fully stating the position of the appellant with respect to each issue involved in the appeal so that no search of the record is required in order to determine that position, 37 CFR 1.192(c) requires that the brief contain specific items, as discussed below.

An exception to the requirement that all the items specified in 37 CFR 1.192(c) be included in the brief is made if the application or reexamination proceeding is being prosecuted by the appellant *pro se*, i.e., there is no attorney or agent of record, and the

brief was neither prepared nor signed by a registered attorney or agent. The brief of a *pro se* appellant which does not contain all of the items, (1) to (9), specified in 37 CFR 1.192(c) will be accepted as long as it substantially complies with the requirements of items (1), (2), and (8). If the brief of a *pro se* appellant is accepted, it will be presumed that all the claims of a rejected group of claims stand or fall together unless an argument is included in the brief that presents reasons as to why the appellant considers one or more of the claims in the rejected group to be separately patentable from the other claims in the group.

A distinction must be made between the lack of any argument and the presentation of arguments which carry no conviction. In the former case, notification of a defective appeal brief is in order, while in the latter case, the application or reexamination is forwarded to the Board for a decision on the merits. As noted above, the examiner may use form paragraphs 12.76-12.76.06 and 12.78, or form PTOL-462, "Notification of Non-Compliance with 37 CFR 1.192(c)," to notify appellant that the appeal brief is defective.

If in his or her brief, appellant relies on some reference, he or she is expected to provide the Board with three copies of it.

The specific items required by 37 CFR 1.192(c) are:

(1) *Real party in interest.* A statement identifying the real party in interest, if the party named in the caption of the brief is not the real party in interest. If appellant does not name a real party in interest, the examiner will assume that the party named in the caption of the brief is the real party in interest, i.e., the owner at the time the brief is being filed.

The identification of the real party in interest will allow members of the Board to comply with ethics regulations associated with working in matters in which the member has a financial interest to avoid any potential conflict of interest. While the examiner will assume that the real party in interest is the individual or individuals identified in the caption when the real party in interest is not explicitly set out in the brief, nevertheless, the Board may require the appellant to explicitly name the real party in interest. See MPEP § 1210.01.

(2) *Related appeals and interferences.* A statement identifying by application number and filing date all other appeals or interferences known to appellant, the appellant's legal representative, or assignee which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal. The appeal or interference number should also be listed. The statement is not limited to copending applications. If appellant does not identify any other appeals or interferences, the examiner will presume that there are none. While the examiner will assume that there are no related cases when no related case is explicitly set out in the brief, nevertheless, the Board may require the appellant to explicitly identify any related case. See MPEP § 1210.01.

(3) *Status of Claims.* A statement of the status of all the claims in the application, or patent under reexamination, i.e., for each claim in the case, appellant must state whether it is cancelled, allowed, rejected, etc. Each claim on appeal must be identified.

(4) *Status of Amendments.* A statement of the status of any amendment filed subsequent to final rejection, i.e., whether or not the amendment has been acted upon by the examiner, and if so, whether it was entered, denied entry, or entered in part. This statement should be of the status of the amendment as understood by the appellant.

Items (3) and (4) are included in 37 CFR 1.192(c) to avoid confusion as to which claims are on appeal, and the precise wording of those claims, particularly where the appellant has sought to amend claims after final rejection. The inclusion of items (3) and (4) in the brief will advise the examiner of what the appellant considers the status of the claims and post-final rejection amendments to be, allowing any disagreement on these questions to be resolved before the appeal is taken up for decision by the Board.

Mr. Dix -

There are new
rules regarding the
format - please see
the changes in red.

the claimed invention

(5) *Summary of Invention*. A concise explanation of the invention defined in the claims involved in the appeal. This explanation is required to refer to the specification by page and line number, and, if there is a drawing, to the drawing by reference characters. Where applicable, it is preferable to read the appealed claims on the specification and any drawing. While reference to page and line number of the specification may require somewhat more detail than simply summarizing the invention, it is considered important to enable the Board to more quickly determine where the claimed subject matter is described in the application.

(6) *Issues*. A concise statement of the issues presented for review. Each stated issue should correspond to a separate ground of rejection which appellant wishes the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences to review. While the statement of the issues must be concise, it should not be so concise as to omit the basis of each issue. For example, the statement of an issue as "Whether claims 1 and 2 are unpatentable" would not comply with 37 CFR 1.192(c)(6). Rather, the basis of the alleged unpatentability would have to be stated, e.g., "Whether claims 1 and 2 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Smith in view of Jones," or "Whether claims 1 and 2 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as being based on a nonenabling disclosure." The statement would be limited to the issues presented, and should not include any argument concerning the merits of those issues.

(7) *Grouping of Claims*. For each ground of rejection which appellant contests and which applies to a group of two or more claims, the Board shall select a single claim from the group and shall decide the appeal as to the ground of rejection on the basis of that claim alone, unless a statement is included that the claims of the group do not stand or fall together and, in the argument section of the brief (37 CFR 1.192(c)(8)), appellant explains why the claims of the group are believed to be separately patentable. Merely pointing out differences in what the claims cover is not an argument as to why the claims are separately patentable. If an appealed ground of rejection applies to more than one claim and appellant considers the rejected claims to be separately patentable, 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) requires appellant to state that the claims do not stand or fall together, and to present in the appropriate part or parts of the argument under 37 CFR 1.192(c)(8) the reasons why they are considered separately patentable.

The absence of such a statement and argument is a concession by the applicant that, if the ground of rejection were sustained as to any one of the rejected claims, it will be equally applicable to all of them. 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) is consistent with the practice of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit indicated in such cases as *In re Young*, 927 F.2d 588, 18 USPQ2d 1089 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *In re Nielson*, 816 F.2d 1567, 2 USPQ2d 1525 (Fed. Cir. 1987); *In re King*, 801 F.2d 1324, 231 USPQ 136 (Fed. Cir. 1986); and *In re Sernaker*, 702 F.2d 989, 217 USPQ 1 (Fed. Cir. 1983). 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) requires the inclusion of reasons in order to avoid unsupported assertions of separate patentability. The reasons may be included in the appropriate portion of the "Argument" section of the brief. For example, if claims 1 to 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 and appellant considers claim 4 to be separately patentable from claims 1 to 3, he or she should so state in the "Grouping of claims" section of the brief, and then give the reasons for separate patentability in the 35 U.S.C. 102 portion of the "Argument" section (i.e., under 37 CFR 1.192(c)(8)(iii)).

In the absence of a separate statement that the claims do not stand or fall together, the Board panel assigned to the case will normally select the broadest claim in a group and will consider only that claim, even though the group may contain two broad claims, such as "ABCDE" and "ABCDF." The same would be true in a case where there are both broad method and apparatus claims on appeal in the same group. The rationale behind the rule, as amended, is to make the appeal process as efficient as possible. Thus, while the Board will consider each separately argued claim, the work of the Board can be done

* *change in title and content - must refer to specification + drawings to show + discuss all of the claimed subject matter*

* *this section no longer necessary*

in a more efficient manner by selecting a single claim from a group of claims when the appellant does not meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7).

It should be noted that 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) requires the appellant to perform two affirmative acts in his or her brief in order to have the separate patentability of a plurality of claims subject to the same rejection considered. The appellant must (A) state that the claims do not stand or fall together and (B) present arguments why the claims subject to the same rejection are separately patentable. Where the appellant does neither, the claims will be treated as standing or falling together. Where, however, the appellant (A) omits the statement required by 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) yet presents arguments in the argument section of the brief, or (B) includes the statement required by 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) to the effect that one or more claims do not stand or fall together (i.e., that they are separately patentable) yet does not offer argument in support thereof in the "Argument" section of the brief, the appellant should be notified of the noncompliance as per 37 CFR 1.192(d). *Ex parte Schier*, 21 USPQ2d 1016 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1991); *Ex parte Ohsumi*, 21 USPQ2d 1020 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1991).

(8) *Argument*. The appellant's contentions with respect to each of the issues presented for review in 37 CFR 1.192(c) (6), and the basis for those contentions, including citations of authorities, statutes, and parts of the record relied on, should be presented in this section.

Included in this paragraph are five subparagraphs, (i) to (v). Subparagraphs (i) to (iv) concern the grounds of rejection most commonly involved in *ex parte* appeals, namely, 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs, 35 U.S.C. 102, and 35 U.S.C. 103. Subparagraph (v) is a general provision concerning grounds of rejection not covered by subparagraphs (i) to (iv).

The purpose of subparagraphs (i) to (iv) is to ensure that the appellant's argument concerning each appealed ground of rejection will include a discussion of the questions relevant to that ground. Compliance with the requirements of the particular subparagraphs which are pertinent to the grounds of rejection involved in an appeal will be beneficial both to the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office and appellants. It will not only facilitate a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences by enabling the Board to determine more quickly and precisely the appellant's position on the relevant issues, but also will help appellants to focus their arguments on those issues. For each rejection not falling under subparagraphs (i) to (iv), subparagraph (v) provides that the argument should specify the specific limitations in the rejected claims, if appropriate, or other reasons, which cause the rejection to be in error. This language recognizes that for some grounds of rejection, it may not be necessary to specify particular claim limitations, for example, a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101, on the ground that the claims are directed to nonstatutory subject matter, as in *Ex parte Hibberd*, 227 USPQ 443 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985).

37 CFR 1.192(a) contains the following sentence:

Any arguments or authorities not included in the brief will be refused consideration by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, unless good cause is shown.

This sentence emphasizes that all arguments and authorities which an appellant wishes the Board to consider should be included in the brief. It should be noted that arguments not presented in the brief and made for the first time at the oral hearing are not normally entitled to consideration. *In re Chiddix*, 209 USPQ 78 (Comm'r Pat. 1980); *Rosenblum v. Hiroshima*, 220 USPQ 383 (Comm'r Pat. 1983).

37 CFR 1.192(a) is not intended to preclude the filing of a supplemental paper if new authority should become available or relevant after the brief was filed. An example of such circumstances would be where a pertinent decision of a court or other tribunal was

not published until after the brief was filed.

(9) *Appendix*. An appendix containing a copy of the claims involved in the appeal

The copy of the claims required in the brief Appendix by 37 CFR 1.192(c)(9) should be a clean copy and should not include any markings such as brackets or underlining. See MPEP § 1454 for the presentation of the copy of the claims in a reissue application.

The copy of the claims should be double spaced and the appendix should start on a new page.

37 CFR 1.192(c) merely specifies the minimum requirements for a brief, and does not prohibit the inclusion of any other material which an appellant may consider necessary or desirable, for example, a list of references, table of contents, table of cases, etc. A brief is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.192(c) as long as it includes items (1) to (9) in the order set forth (with the appendix, item (9), at the end).

REVIEW OF BRIEF BY EXAMINER

The question of whether a brief complies with the rule is a matter within the jurisdiction of the examiner. 37 CFR 1.192(d) provides that if a brief is filed which does not comply with all the requirements of paragraph (c), the appellant will be notified of the reasons for noncompliance. Appellant will be given the longest of any of the following time periods to correct the defect(s):

(A) 1 month or 30 days from the mailing of the notification of non-compliance, whichever is longer;

(B) within the time period for reply to the action from which appeal has been taken; or

(C) within 2 months from the date of the notice of appeal under 37 CFR 1.191.

Extensions of time may be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or 1.136(b). The examiner may use the form paragraphs set forth below or form PTOL-462, "Notification of Non-Compliance with 37 CFR 1.192(c)," to notify appellant that the appeal brief is defective. The appeal will be dismissed if the appellant does not timely file an amended brief, or files an amended brief which does not overcome all the reasons for noncompliance of which the appellant was notified.

Under 37 CFR 1.192(d), the appellant may file an amended brief to correct any deficiencies in the original brief. Moreover, if appellant disagrees with the examiner's holding of noncompliance, a petition under 37 CFR 1.181 may be filed.

Once the brief has been filed, a petition to suspend proceedings may be considered on its merits, but will be granted only in exceptional cases, such as where the writing of the examiner's answer would be fruitless or the proceedings would work an unusual hardship on the appellant.

For a reply brief, see MPEP § 1208.03.

Form paragraphs 12.08-12.13, 12.16, 12.17, and 12.69-12.78, or Form PTOL-462, "Notification of Non-Compliance with 37 CFR 1.192(c)," may be used concerning the appeal brief

¶ 12.08 Appeal Dismissed - Brief Fee Unpaid, No Allowed Claims

The appeal under 37 CFR 1.191 is dismissed because the fee for filing the brief, as required under 37 CFR 1.17(c) was not submitted or timely submitted and the period for obtaining an extension of time to file the brief under 37 CFR 1.136(a) has expired.

As a result of this dismissal, the application is ABANDONED since there are no allowed claims.

* Now need 3
appendices:

① copy of all
claims on appeal

② EVIDENCE APPENDIX

③ RELATED PROCEEDINGS
APPENDIX

for ②+③, if you have
no evidence or related
proceedings, just type
the Appendix heading
and state "None."
on the page.